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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re application of:

KEITH R. ANDERSON et al.

Application No.: 09/500,887

Filed: February 9, 2000

For: HIGH-SPEED NETWORK OF
INDEPENDENTLY LINKED NODES

Art Unit: 2151

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed April 24, 2001, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1-13 without prejudice.

Amend claim 19 to read as follows:

~~19. The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising means for collecting and transmitting data regarding physical security from a plurality of the individual communicating stations to a central security office over the plurality of branching nodes.~~

REMARKS

The applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 14-18 and 20-21. By this amendment claim 19 has also been placed in condition for allowance. Support for the amendment to claim 19, rejected for lack of clarity of the term "physical security data," is found on page 13, beginning at line 12 and on page 19 beginning at line 17.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.